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REMARKS

Claims 1-26 remain pending in this application. Claims 13-16 were elected with traverse in response to the restriction requirement of an earlier office action sent May 10th, 2004. The restriction requirement should now be considered moot as claims 1, 3, 8, 17, and 24 have been amended to include a limitation common to the elected group including claims 13-16. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-12 and 17-26. Claims 13-16 have been amended via this paper to more clearly reflect language in the specification in order to place this application in condition for allowance and to obtain an early notice of allowance. Applicants submit that these amendments shall not in any way be construed to have narrowed the scope of protection. Claim 7 has also been amended via this paper in order to correct a typographical error.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his efforts with respect to the office action, dated August 13, 2004, related to the above-referenced application. Applicants would also like to express gratitude for Examiner's timely acceptance of a telephone interview on October 8, 2004, with the Applicant's representative Mr. James E. Shultz Jr., related to the above-referenced application. The substance of this telephone interview is memorialized in the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Turning to paragraph 3 of the Official Office Action, claims 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as containing subject matter not disclosed in the specification. Applicants strongly disagree, however, in order to receive a timely notice of allowance claim 13 has been amended as discussed during the telephone interview to recite explicit language contained in the specification. In that the language of currently amended claim 13 is taken directly from the specification, see paragraph 59, and that claims 14-16 depend from claim 13, Applicants submit that the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112 are

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satisfied. Applicants respectfully request removal of the rejection and reconsideration of claims 13-16. Applicants further submit that upon removal of this rejection the invalidity of Applicant's claim to priority through continuation is traversed, therefore, Breed et al. (U.S. Patent 6,324,453) is not prior art.

Turning to paragraph 5 of the Official Office Action, claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Breed et al.. Applicants submit Breed et al. is not prior art for at least the reasons stated above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 as amended via this paper is in condition for allowance. In that claim 14 depends from claim 13, the applicants submit that claim 14 is also in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request removal of the rejection and reconsideration of claims 13 and 14.

Turning to paragraph 7 of the Official Office Action, claim 15 was rejected as being unpatentable over Breed et al. in view of Waldman et al. (U.S. Patent 5,764,163). For at least the reasons expressed above Applicants submit that Breed et al. is not prior art. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 15 is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request removal of the rejection and reconsideration of Claim 15.

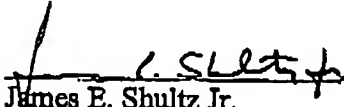
Turning to paragraph 8 of the Official Office Action, claim 16 was rejected as being unpatentable over Breed et al. in view of Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Patent 4,891,559). For at least the reasons stated above Applicants submit Breed et al. is not prior art. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 16 is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request removal of the rejection and reconsideration of claim 16.

Applicants submit the above-referenced application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added via the amendments contained in this paper. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued. Please contact the undersigned should additional information be required.

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Respectfully submitted,
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